

ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1925.

Chairman of Council Councillor Wm. Jones.
Chairman of Sanitary Committee ... Councillor W. H. Richards.

Abercarn Fach, Cwmearn, Mon.,

30th April, 1926.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of presenting to you my Twelfth Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Administration of your area.

Some time ago the Ministry of Health indicated that in every fifth year they would require a special report, to be called a Survey Report, and I have therefore endeavoured in this report

to deal comprehensively with all the matters referred to in Circular 648, and especially as to the manner of progress in health matters made in this district during the past five years.

Natural and Social Conditions.

Area	...	...	9,506 acres.	
		1911 census.	1921 census.	1925 estimated
Population	...	16,445	20,480	21,260
Inhabited Houses	...	3,127	3,633	3,800
Separate Families	...		4,261	
Rateable Value	...	£49,841	£73,545	£110,000
Produce of Id. Rate		£210	£297	£420
Amounts expended by Guardians in Out-relief :—				
Year ended 31st March, 1925	...	...	...	£6,671/8/6.
Year ended 31st March, 1926	...	...	...	£5,386/17/6.

The Abercarn Urban District is situate in the Western Valleys of Monmouthshire and extends from Cwmearn in the south to Crumlin and Aberbeeg in the north (about six miles). The mountains on each side of the Valley rise to a height of over 1,500 feet, except at Newbridge, where there is a junction with another valley towards Pontllanfraith. The chief centres of population are the townships of Cwmearn, Abercarn, Newbridge and Crumlin, all situate in the Valley, with Pentwynmawr, Kendon, and the new village of Treowen on the higher ground. The district is divided into six wards for administrative purposes. The Great Western Railway have two main lines running through the area, i.e., the Western Valleys branch and the Pontypool-Swansea main line. The river Ebbw runs through the area from north to south. The majority of the male inhabitants of the district are employed in coal mining and its bye-products, there being several large pits in the district. There is also a large tinplate works at Abercarn, at which a number of women are also employed. Farming is carried on on the higher levels but only a small area is cultivated.

Rainfall.

Recorded at "Maesderwen," Cwmearn, by Mr. John Williams,
your Surveyor.

1925	Total Depth	Greatest fall in 24 hours.		Number of Days with. 01 or more recorded.	1924
	Inches.	Inches.	Date.		Inches.
January	6.28	1.70	1	17	5.99
February	8.51	1.66	11	18	0.77
March .....	.28	.15	9	2	2.43
April	3.00	.78	5	13	4.88
May	6.26	1.17	29	20	7.81
June	Nil	—	—	—	3.21
July	3.39	.76	2	15	5.42
August	5.38	1.73	12	16	6.26
September	4.95	1.37	22	10	9.64
October	6.12	1.39	22	12	7.78
November.....	3.09	1.79	7	5	4.18
December	5.13	1.06	28	16	9.21
Total	52.39	1.79	7/11/25	144	67.58
1924	67.58	2.05	26/12/24	173	—
1923	51.83	2.49	13/11/23	166	

Height above sea level, 428.1ft.

Average—1900-12, 52.19ins. ; 1913-18, No records ; 1919, 47.42ins.
1920, 64.15ins. ; 1921, 33.91ins. 1922, 49.16 ins.

Vital Statistics.

Births.

There were 535 births in 1925 (268 boys and 267 girls). This gives a birth rate of 25.16, exactly the same as last year. This is above the birth rate for the County of Monmouth, namely, 21.5. The birth rate for England and Wales was 18.3. Of the above number of births, 13 were illegitimate (6 boys and 7 girls). The natural increase or excess of births over deaths was 309. The following is a comparison with previous years :—

Year.	No.	Per 1000.	E & W.	County.
1920	669	33.35	25.4	29.17
1921	601	29.34	22.4	28.3
1922	507	24.32	20.6	—
1923	503	24.53	19.7	23.5
1924	532	25.16	18.8	22.3
1925	535	25.16	18.3	21.5

The average birth rate for our district from 1893 to 1914 was 37.48 and from 1914 to 1923, 29.48. The highest birth rate recorded was 45.7 in 1894 and the lowest 21.3 in 1906.

Several cases have come to my notice of the great discomfort endured by many women confined in overcrowded dwellings.

Deaths.

229 deaths were registered in the district in 1925, of which 26 belonged to other districts, but 23 deaths of residents occurred away from the district and thus the nett number of deaths for the year is 226 (117 males and 109 females) giving a corrected death rate of 10.63. The death rate for England and Wales was 12.2 and that for the County 10.6. This compares with the past five years as under :—

Year.	No.	Death Rate.	E. & W.	County.
1920	210	10.46	12.4	11.85
1921	234	11.42	12.1	11.28
1922	216	10.36	12.9	
1923	203	9.66	11.6	10.4
1924	219	10.35	12.2	10.5
1925	226	10.63	12.2	10.6

Deaths taking place at the Aberbeeg Hospital and not belonging to our district are transferred to the districts from which they come.

Infant Mortality.

There were 47 deaths of infants under one year during 1925, (25 boys and 22 girls), giving an infantile death rate per 1,000 births of 87.86. The rate for England and Wales was 75.0, and that for the County 83.18. This compares with the past five years as under :—

Year.	No.	Rate.	E. & W.	County.
1920 ...	56	83 70	80	87 85
1921 ...	58	96 50	83	91 5
1922 ...	46	96 45		
1923 ...	33	64 07		
1924 ...	45	84 58	75	75.6
1925 ...	47	87.86	75	83.18

Infectious Diseases.

201 cases of infectious disease, as set out in the table below, were notified in 1925, giving an attack rate of 9.5 per 1,000 inhabitants. This compares with the last 5 years as under :—

Year.	No.	Attack Rate.
1920	153	7.6
1921	94	4.6
1922	64	3.0
1923	149	7.1
1924	218	10.3
1925	201	9.5

1925	Un- der 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and ov- er	To- tal	1924
Diphtheria ...	—	26	34	4	4	1	—	69	62
Erysipelas ...	—	—	1	2	4	2	1	10	3
Scarlet Fever ...	—	2	11	1	—	—	—	14	92
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Tuberculosis ...	—	2	3	8	5	2	—	20	18
Chicken Pox... ..	4	44	31	—	2	—	—	81	33
Enceph. Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Ophthal. Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Infleunzal Pneumonia	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	4	3
1925	5	74	82	16	17	6	1	201	218
1924 ...	4	28	94	11	10	2	—	218	—

Zymotic Diseases.

	1925		1924	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	14	—	92	6
Diphtheria ...	69	7	62	6
Measles ...	—	2	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	9	—	—
Erysipelas ...	10	—	3	—
Enteric Fever ...	2	—	—	—
	95	18	157	13

Death Rate 0.8. Last Year 0.6. 1923, 0.8.

Scarlet Fever.

There were only 14 cases notified during 1925 and none proved fatal. This compares very favourably indeed with past years. Last year there were 92 cases (6 deaths), 1923, 116 (0), 1922, 29 (0), 1921, 44, and 1920, 97.

Diphtheria.

69 cases were notified and there were 7 deaths. Last year there were 62 cases and 6 deaths. 1923, 1 case; 1922, 10 cases. Antitoxin is supplied free. The large number of cases of Diphtheria which occurred in the upper part of the district was accounted for by the fact that they were nearly all "contact" cases, as was shewn by the fact that the closing of the Tynewydd Council Schools for a few weeks stopped the epidemic which was becoming somewhat alarming.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

There were 2 deaths last year from Measles, 1 in 1924, 16 in 1923, none in 1922 or 1921.

Erysipelas.

We had 10 cases last year, no deaths, compared with 3 cases in 1924, 3 in 1923, 4 in 1922, and 7 in 1921.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever.

Two cases of Enteric Fever were notified but both patients recovered. There were no cases last year. We had one fatal case in 1922. It is gratifying to observe our freedom from this disease—a tribute to the efficacy of our Trunk Sewer.

Puerperal Fever.

I am glad again to report that we have been free from this scourge. We had 2 cases in 1924, and 3 cases in 1922. Our district compares very well with other areas.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case was notified, compared with 2 last year, none in 1923 and 1 in 1922.

Chicken Pox.

Owing to the prevalence of Small Pox throughout the country, this disease became notifiable in 1924. 33 cases were notified in 1924 and 81 in 1925. Medical Practitioners have now been requested to cease notifying the disease.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

No cases were notified last year, although 3 were notified in 1924 (2 deaths).

Acute Respiratory Diseases.

The following are figures for the past 5 years :—

		1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
Bronchitis ...	...	9	22	15	24	18
Pneumonia ...	...	35	33	17	33	31
Influenza ...	...	7	7	1	23	6
Other Forms ...	...	4	2	1	1	2
		<hr/>				
Totals ...	...	55	64	34	81	57
Death Rate ...	...	2.60	3.02	1.54	3.88	2.78

Cancer.

There were 12 deaths from malignant disease, compared with 10 in 1924, 12 in 1923, 11 in 1921 and 12 in 1920.

Tuberculosis.

20 new cases were notified (10 males and 10 females). 5 were of schoolchildren, 1 an infant, 6 housewives, 6 miners, 1 a traveller, and 1 a tinworker. All our cases received treatment from the Welsh National Memorial Association.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
10	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
20	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
25	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
35	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	1
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
55	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	9	9	1	1	2	3	3	5

Inquests.

18 Coroner's Inquests were held on cases belonging to our district (as under), the same number as last year.

Found Drowned	...	...	...	...	2
Colliery Accidents	...	...	...	...	7
Natural Causes	...	...	...	...	6
Motor Accidents	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals.

No Hospitals are provided by this Council or the County Council. No further steps have been taken with the joint scheme suggested some years ago. The only hospital in the district is that provided by the workmen at Aberbeeg for accidents.

Hospitals and Institutions receiving sick and infirm persons from the district, are : —

Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport.
 Woolaston House, Newport (Board of Guardians).
 Abergavenny Mental Hospital.
 Caerleon Mental Hospital.
 Newport Corporation Allt-yr-yn Infectious Diseases Hospital.
 Oakdale Cottage Hospital.
 Pontypool District Cottage Hospital.
 Bristol Infirmary.
 Cardiff King Edward VII Hospital.
 Various W. N. Memorial Tuberculosis Sanatoria.

Arrangements have been made for infectious disease cases from this area to be sent to the Newport Corporation Allt-yr-yn Hospital, subject to payment by the Council and to beds being available. Only two cases have been so sent in the last five years.

No institutional provision is made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children and homeless infants in the area, and any such cases would have to be received either into Abergavenny Home for Unmarried Mothers, or into Woolaston House Poor Law Infirmary, Newport.

Ambulance Facilities.

If infectious cases require transportation, this is done by the Newport Corporation.

The Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron & Coal Co., Ltd. have ambulance facilities for dealing with Colliery accidents.

Maternity and Child Welfare

There are two centres in the area, (1) at Tabernacle Schoolroom, Newbridge, opened 20th March, 1917, open on Mondays from 10 to 12 noon and 2 to 4 p.m., and (2) at English Baptist Schoolroom, Abercarn, opened 18th October, 1917, open on Thursdays from 10 to 12.30 and 2.30 to 4.30.

School Clinics.

School Clinics are provided by the County Council, with centres at Abercarn and Newbridge.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

This is maintained by the Welsh National Memorial Association at Newbridge and medical men attend here weekly from Newport.

Venereal Diseases.

The clinic available for this area is at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, and is doing, and has done, excellent work. Lectures are given under the auspices of the County Council from time to time.

Public Health Officers.

My office is part time, and Mr. Moses is full-time Sanitary Inspector. He also acts as Food and Meat Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Acts.

Nursing Associations.

There are two Nursing Associations in the area, one for Newbridge and the other for Aberearn and Cwmearn. They are supported entirely by voluntary contributions and administered by committees of local ladies who perform really excellent service. Both districts are affiliated to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association. Three nurses are employed, one by Newbridge and 2 by Abercarn and Cwmearn.

Midwives.

Most of the old Midwives who qualified by lay service before the Act came in have now ceased practice and the present midwives are satisfactory as a body. The number of midwives practising at the 31st December, 1925, in the area was 17.

Chemical Work.

When necessary, Analysis work is carried out in the Laboratory of the County Council at Newport, whose Bacteriologist is at the service of any practitioner in the area free of charge.

Adoptive Acts, Byelaws, etc.

The following are in force :—

Nuisances	}	14th June, 1925 (now under General Revision).
New Streets and Buildings		
Cleansing of Footways and Pavements		
Common Lodging Houses		
Houses Let in Lodgings		
Slaughterhouses		
Offensive Trades		
Private and Public Scavenging—6th April, 1907.		
Cemetery Byelaws.		
Byelaws as to Secondary Means of Access.		

Pleasure Grounds (Cwmearn Park and Caetwmypyn Park—)7th July, 1916.

Regulations as to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops—10th April, 1894.

Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Act, 1899.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (part).

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Part V and portions Parts II, III and IV)—9th May, 1911.

Public Health Act, 1925 (under consideration).

Private Street Works Act, 1892—Adopted as from January 1st, 1922.

As to streets—1922.

As to Cwmearn Memorial Park—1923.

Water Supply.

The Council is a constituent authority of the Abertillery and District Water Board who are constructing an impounding reservoir at Grwyne Fawr, Breconshire, at a cost of about one million pounds. It is hoped this reservoir will be completed within the next 2 or 3 years when a really good and pure supply of water will be assured. This reservoir is connected to the area by a main pipe line of 40 miles. Pending this supply the district in the summer is dependent almost entirely on local resources, and in a dry season the supply, especially in the higher levels, is very restricted.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Ebbw runs right through the area, about 6 miles.

The Great Western Railway Co's Monmouthshire Canal runs from Crumlin to Cwmearn, about 4 miles.

Very serious flooding occurred during the last two winters, and the Council have constructed, at considerable cost, culverts at Cwmdows and Trinant, which should mitigate the evil. The

Torlais Brook has been a source of trouble for many years, and it is only the high cost which I take it prevents this nuisance being completely dealt with.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the past five years the Council have laid some very considerable lengths of sewer, namely, Kendon, Crosspenmaen and Trinant (at a cost of over £10,000), and at High Street, Newbridge, and Cwmdows. The new housing sites at Llanfach and Treowen appear to be adequately sewered. The Council is a constituent authority of the Western Valleys (Mon.) Sewerage Board, whose outfall is in the Bristol Channel. Difficulty has for some years been experienced in adequately sewerage Victoria Terrace, Newbridge, but this question appears now to be well on a way to a solution. 10 connections to the sewers were made in 1925.

Closet Accommodation.

The district is well sewered and all closets within 100 feet of the sewer are, or are being, connected up. There are a number of closets outside this radius which it is impossible to connect. Generally speaking the conditions of these closets is as satisfactory as can be expected.

Council Schools.

The sanitary condition of the Council Schools is quite satisfactory.

Scavenging.

I think our district is difficult to organise for really efficient scavenging owing to the hilly nature of the ground and scattered houses. The work is done by two contractors, one for the north and one for the south. I consider the work done is generally satisfactory. I am looking forward to the time when the Council will be able to destroy all refuse in a fire destructor.

Monmouthshire Canal.

The canal is inspected from time to time and the only complaint is as to the deposit therein of dead dogs, cats, etc. The attention of the Railway Co. is drawn to this and every assistance is given by the Co's officials.

Smoke Abatement.

It has not been considered necessary to take any action in this connection.

Rat Destruction.

The work of the County officials charged with Rat Destruction has borne fruit and I am strongly of opinion that the money paid by the Council in this connection is well spent. When one considers the amount of waste of foodstuffs caused by rats, quite apart from the danger to health, one realises the importance of keeping them under.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

While sanitary conditions in the whole district have certainly improved in the last five years, still sanitary education of the average household is far from complete and this constitutes the serious difficulty in this as in every industrial area.

HOUSING.

The Council have erected 258 houses :—

Pre-War	...	{	Newbridge	22	
			Crumlin	6	
			Cwmearn	98	
				—	126
Assisted Scheme		{	Abercarn	70	
			Treowen	62	
				—	132
					<hr/>
					258

The Llanover Estate are contemplating the erection of 480 houses, 330 at Treowen and 150 at Abercarn, and these should help to mitigate to some extent at least the very overcrowded condition of our district.

There are some portions of our district which have required especial attention. I would refer particularly to Central Road, Llanhilleth, where the tenants live under bad conditions. Colliery subsidence has seriously affected the drainage of houses at the Pant.

I have pleasure in incorporating in this report a detailed statement of the new Llanover houses by our Surveyor, Mr. J. Williams :—

Treowen Housing Scheme, Newbridge, Mon.

In common with all other Authorities, the Abercarn Urban District Council were, at the conclusion of the Great War, faced with the problem of efficiently housing the population of their area, notwithstanding that during the period of the war they built at Newbridge and Abercarn 132 houses at a very great cost.

Schemes were formulated under the "Addison Act," the Chamberlain and Wheatley Schemes, but did not fructify owing to the various difficulties which arose.

Eventually the Council were approached by Major-General the Lord Treowen with the intimation that he wished to co-operate with the Council in the production of a scheme which would help to solve the housing difficulties prevailing. After long and earnest negotiations, during which his Lordship emphasised the advisability of providing every facility for intending occupiers becoming owners of their houses upon the easiest possible terms, a scheme was evolved which was considered satisfactory to all concerned.

Briefly the scheme was, that his Lordship and others associated with him should undertake to build about 500 houses at Newbridge and Abercarn, the Council agreeing to grant a subsidy of £134/10/- per house, and to advance on mortgage 90% of the

market value of the house, the loan to be at a rate of interest to be fixed by the Public Works Loan Board, and to be for a period of 30 years.

It was further agreed that the nett weekly rental should not exceed 9/6 per week, although it was realised that on the estimated cost of erection this figure would be much below the economic rental calculated on the basis of the Addison and Chamberlain Schemes.

The Scheme was submitted for the approval of the Ministry of Health, and although there were several phases that went beyond the usual limits laid down by the Ministry, they then expressed satisfaction and sympathy with the Scheme and sanctioned the proposals in their entirety.

Plans and elevations of the types of houses being constructed with figured dimensions will be found on the following pages of this report.

The total cost of the houses will be £554 each, this figure includes the cost of land, together with completed roads and sewers, but as the result of the united efforts of Lord Treowen and the Abercarn Urban District Council, each house may be sold **freehold** at £410 each including all legal and other charges.

Arrangements have also been made whereby advances on mortgage can be made by the Council on terms which have been varied to meet the circumstances of all possible purchasers.

The terms are as follows :—

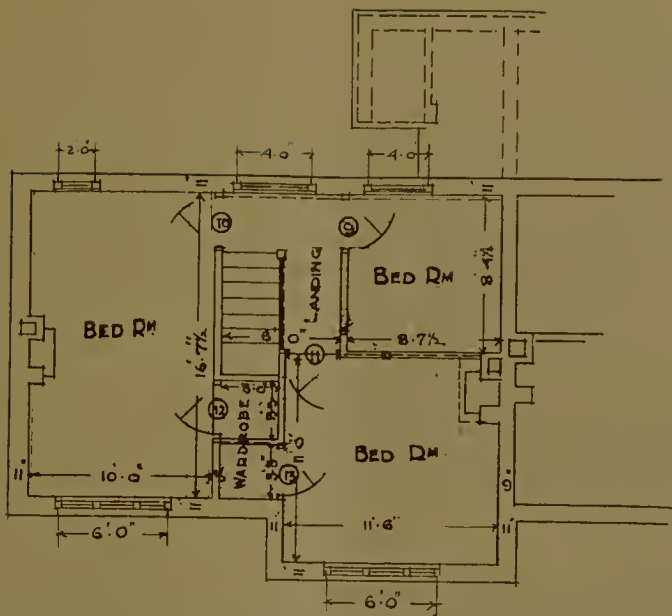
On payment of a deposit of	Wkly. payment for 30 years.	Wkly. payment for 20 years.	Wkly. payment for 15 years.
£5	10/3	12/6	15/-
£35	9/6	11/9	14/-
£50	—	11/-	13/3
£75	—	10/3	12/3
£100	—	9/6	11/3

Treowen Housing Scheme.

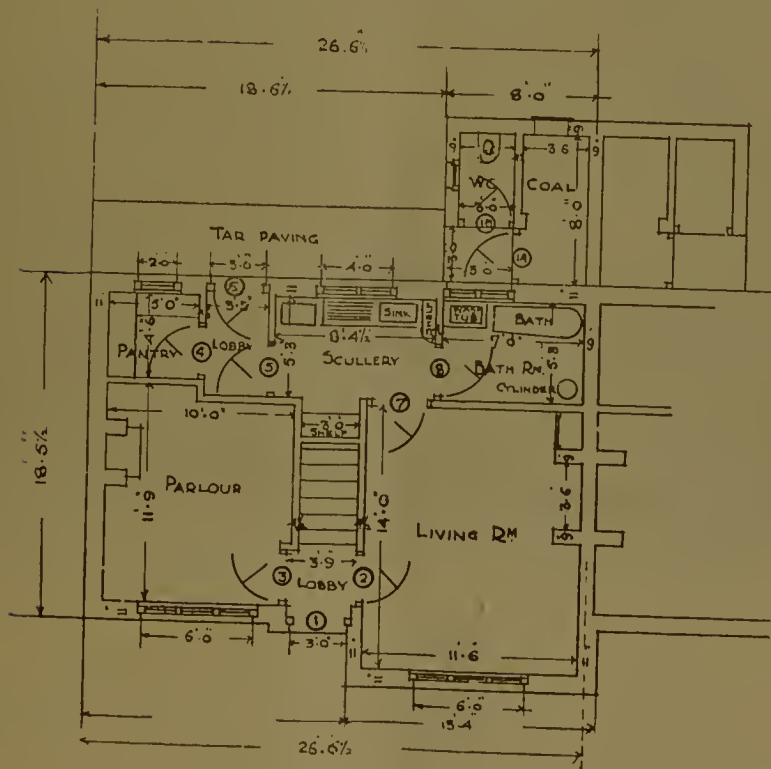
ELEVATION & PLAN of TYPE No. 1.



Elevation of Nos. 18 & 20 Treowen Road.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.



GROUND PLAN.

Treowen Housing Scheme.



ELEVATION & PLAN of TYPE No. 2.



Elevation of Nos. 26 & 28 Treowen Road.

CONCRETE FLAT

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

10'-1 1/2"

6'-0"

4'-0"

4'-0"

9'-0"

16'-7 1/2"

9'-0"

13'-0"

6'-0"

6'-0"

BED. ROOM

BED. ROOM

BED. ROOM

BATH

9

10

11

12

13

A hand-drawn architectural ground plan of a house, oriented with the front entrance at the bottom. The plan includes the following rooms and features:

- Front Entrance:** A small porch area with a door labeled (1) leading into a lobby.
- Lobby:** A central area with a door labeled (2) leading to the living room and a door labeled (3) leading to the parlour.
- Living Room:** Located on the left side, featuring a fireplace on the left wall and a door labeled (7) leading to the scullery.
- Parlour:** Located on the right side, featuring a fireplace on the right wall and a door labeled (4) leading to the pantry.
- Scullery:** A small kitchen area containing a sink, shelves, and a door labeled (8) leading to the bathroom.
- Bathroom:** Located at the top left, containing a bath, wash tub, and a door labeled (14) leading to the coal store.
- Pantry:** Located at the top right, containing a door labeled (5) leading to the lobby and a door labeled (6) leading to the scullery.
- Coal Store:** A small room at the top left, labeled "COAL" and "C.O.C.", with a door labeled (13) leading to the bathroom.
- Staircase:** A central staircase with shelves, labeled "STAIRS", with a door labeled (7) leading to the living room and a door labeled (5) leading to the lobby.
- Exterior Features:** A "TARMAC PAVING" area is shown at the top, and a "GLIDER" is indicated near the bathroom.

The plan is annotated with numerous dimensions in feet and inches, and numbered circles (1-14) indicating specific doors or points of interest. The overall dimensions of the house are 25' 9" wide and 16' 7 1/2" deep.

Milk Supply.

The milk supply of the district is good. A large quantity is imported. There are 39 retailers registered, and none of the licenses have been revoked. Samples of milk have been regularly taken.

Pig Keeping.

Since the wartime provision as to the keeping of pigs has been rescinded, and the old order of things has now been restored, very little difficulty or nuisance is caused through the keeping of pigs.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

1925 was a successful year at the Abercarn Centre. The number on the register at 31st December was 304. The total number of attendances during the year was 3,468. While the average attendance of infants (75.4 per cent) is gratifying, the number of nursing mothers and expectant mothers attending has been small. This is of course explained by the fact that all the cases come from my own practice and can be seen privately—from their point of view much to be preferred.

It is gratifying to find that the encouragement given to mothers to feed their own babies naturally is bearing fruit :—

Breast-fed	...	...	222
Breast and Glaxo	...	...	6
Breast and Ambrosia	...	...	6
Breast and Nestle's	...	...	7

241

The number and articles used in regard to the artificially-fed were as follows :—

Cows' Milk	...	...	...	11
Glaxo	...	...	...	16
Allenbury's	...	...	...	5
Ambrosia	...	...	...	18
Nestle's and Virol	...	...	...	11
Cow and Gate	...	...	...	2
				<hr/>
				63
				<hr/>

There is no doubt that the introduction of dried preparations of milk in these Centres has saved countless lives, as since they have become popular the number of deaths from epidemic diarrhoea has dwindled year by year. Whereas one used to see hundreds of cases every summer, one now rarely meets a bad case.

I have drawn the attention of the County Health Authorities to the excellent and conscientious work of our lady health visitor, Nurse Lord. She has been unflagging in her efforts during the year : also to the steady, unostentatious efforts of the lady helpers at this Clinic.

At the Newbridge Centre the number on the register decreased by 15 but the total attendances increased by 135. The total number of visits was 1,760, the average per session being 37.7.

178 infants under 12 months of age attended during the year. Of these 101 were breast-fed for at least 8 months, 34 breast-fed with supplementary bottle-feeding 43 weaned from the breast before 4 months old and fed as follows :—cows' milk, 12 dried milk 20, Nestle's milk 9, and proprietary foods 2.

The percentage of breast-fed babies increased from 48.1 in 1924 to 56.6 in 1925.

13 mothers who were breast-feeding were advised that other food was necessary, but in the majority of cases bottle-feeding was established before coming to the Clinic, or adopted in intervals between Clinic visits. Most mothers are loath to wean at 9 months, and in 13 cases had not done so at 15 months.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. M. GRIFFITH, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices, Abercarn, Mon.,
30th April, 1926.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report of Sanitary work done during 1925.

A summary of the work done during the year is as follows :

Number of dwelling houses inspected	...	...	...	...	1011
Reinspection	...	...	...	...	502
Warning notices given	...	...	...	...	428
Remedied without notice...	...	...	...	...	96
Warning notices complied with	...	...	...	...	296
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	74
Statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	62

Summary of above :

Leaky roofs	...	...	...	...	160
Rain water gutters	...	...	...	...	127
New windows	...	...	...	...	12
New sashes, etc.	...	...	...	...	36
Walls and ceilings replastered and repaired	...	...	...	...	113
Rooms refloored	...	...	...	...	5
New front floors	...	...	...	...	5
New fire places	...	...	...	...	13
Back yards and forecourts	...	...	...	...	12
Drains re-constructed	...	...	...	...	19
Inspection chambers	...	...	...	...	—
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	126

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Private enterprise	...	...	...	...	8
(b) By the Council	...	...	...	...	—

1. *Unfit dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	912
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	670
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	16
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	16

2. *Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	73
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	

(a) by owners	—
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	153
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	146
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the
Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	—
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

This statement represents visits made, complaints and periodical inspections in connection with general sanitary conditions within the area.

Some difficulty is still experienced in getting the necessary repairs done, where heavy expenditure is necessary, owing to the bad state of trade and inability of the tenant to pay the rent. I have, however, been able to get quite a considerable amount of work done notwithstanding all the difficulties.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Number of Cowsheds on Register	...	29
Number of Retail Purveyors	... ..	39

Although difficulty has been experienced, I am pleased to say improvements continue to be made under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, in altering the cowsheds and improving ventilation, drainage, flooring, etc.

Council Schools.

Although no serious epidemic occurred in your area during the past year (with the exception of the outbreak at Newbridge, it was thought necessary as a matter of precaution to disinfect the whole of the schools in the northern part of the district.

Scavenging.

The scavenging is carried out by two contractors—one for the southern portion and one for the northern portion—at a total cost of £1,650 per annum. I am pleased to say that generally the work is carried out in a satisfactory manner. I still have to contend with a great deal of “dumping” by the inhabitants, and I am taking measures to deal with this dirty habit.

Slaughterhouses.

There are at the present time four private slaughterhouses, all of which are registered. One is at Cwmcarn, one at Newbridge, and two at Abercarn. During the year the following quantities of meat were condemned and surrendered :—

English Meat	{	Beef	...	642 lbs.
		Veal	...	40 lbs.
		Bacon	...	110 lbs.
				<hr/>
				792 lbs.
				<hr/>
Foreign and Chilled Meat	{	Beef	...	23 lbs.
		Mutton	...	15 lbs.
				<hr/>
				38 lbs.
				<hr/>

One complete carcase of beef was condemned and taken with all offal, due to general Tuberculosis. The above figures appear high but generally the quality of meat prepared for food in your district is exceptionally good as is also the chilled and imported meat. Inspections of slaughterhouses are regularly made. Arrangements are made with the various butchers as to notification of times of slaughter, etc., and every precaution is taken to have same kept in a cleanly and sanitary condition.

Food Inspection.

I have paid particular attention to traders during the past year and have condemned and ordered to be destroyed the following :—

Condensed Milk	'	...	...	...	41 tins.
Salmon		...	...	...	46 tins.

Corned Beef	...	...	...	33 tins.
Tomatoes	...	...	...	54 tins.
Vegetables	...	...	...	160 lbs.
Fruit	...	...	...	20 lbs.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year. No difficulty is experienced in obtaining the surrender of the different lots of the unsound food mentioned, and every facility was given to me in carrying out my inspection.

Housing.

Although somewhat alleviated since last year, overcrowding is still very serious all over your district, and unfortunately it is useless my reporting these cases because they are only intensified by people moving from overcrowded rooms to others that are worse.

I have upon several occasions drawn the attention of the Council to the serious nuisance of keeping pigeons, fowls, ducks, etc. in back yards. I feel that this is a difficult matter to deal with as it is often said it is interfering with the rights of the working man to have fresh eggs, etc., but this has grown to such an extent that in many cases every inch of back yard is taken up and covered over by offensive-looking and offensive-smelling cots, etc., and when the object of these spaces of back yards is considered it is obvious that the families are robbed of the fresh air and light that this cubic space is provided for. Personally I think the Company owners and other property owners should be approached to help the Council in this matter by giving instructions to their tenants that this should not be allowed, and I strongly recommend the Council not to allow their own tenants to do so.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, S.132.

The factories in your area number about 25. There are also about 30 workshops. These are regularly inspected. Any defects requiring attention are immediately attended to.

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found	Re-medied.	Referred to H.M Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accomodation { insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	1	—	—

Cinemas.

There are five cinemas in your area. The sanitary arrangements are good and modern and all safety precautions provided.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. ARTHUR MOSES,

Sanitary Inspector.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE
YEAR, 1925.

		Nett Deaths at the sub-joined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without tho District.									
Causes of Death											
1924		At all ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & upwards	
.....	Enteric Fever .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Small Pox .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1	Measles	2	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6	Scarlet Fever .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Whooping Cough	9	5	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6	Diphtheria and Croup	7	.....	.....	6	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
7	Influenza	7	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3
2	Encephalitis Lethargica	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
.....	Erysipelas .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
10	Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2	1	.....
1	Tuberculous Meningitis	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Other Tuberculous Diseases	7	.....	.....	1	2	1	2	1	.....
10	Cancer, malignant disease	12	.....	.....	.....	1	1	1	7	2
2	Rheumatic Fever .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Arterio Sclerosis	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	1
18	Heart Disease	18	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	11	5
22	Bronchitis	9	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	4
24	Broncho Pneumonia	34	12	9	1	.....	1	2	2	7
9	Pneumonia (all forms)	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
2	Other Respiratory Diseases	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	1
5	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2)	6	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Appendicitis and Typhilitis	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
1	Cirrhosis of Liver .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	Diabetes	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
6	Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....
.....	Puerperal Fever	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....
2	Other Accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....
24	Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth	19	19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
18	Violent Deaths, excluding Suicides	10	.....	.....	1	.....	2	3	4	.....
.....	Suicide	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....
36	Other defined Diseases	41	1	.....	1	2	1	3	14	19
7	Senile Decay	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
.....	Diseases ill-defined or unknown .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
219	All Causes Certified	226	47	14	15	7	12	18	49	64	
	All Causes, 1924	219	45	6	10	10	17	28	49	54	

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1925 AND PREVIOUS TEN YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths of all ages belonging to the Dist.	
		Numb'r	Rate.	Under 1 year.		At all ages.		To other Districts	Of Residents away		
				Numb'r	Rate per 1,000 Births	Numb'r	Reco-rded Death Rate				
1915	18100	623	35.91	61	100	220	12.15	6	3	217	11.98
1916	18100	547	30.22	51	93	192	10.60	3	25	214	11.82
1917	18699	521	28.01	51	98	208	11.19	3	12	217	11.66
1918	18900	530	28.04	50	94	250	13.22	...	12	262	13.91
1919	19289	494	24.58	46	93.1	200	10.36	...	19	219	11.30
1920	20058	669	33.35	56	83.7	196	9.77	1	15	210	10.46
1921	20480	601	29.34	58	96.5	216	10.54	5	23	234	11.42
1922	20840	507	24.32	46	96.45	188	9.02	1	29	216	10.36
1923	20990	503	24.53	33	64.07	208	...	24	19	203	9.66
1924	21140	532	25.16	45	84.58	218	...	28	29	219	10.35
Aver.	—	552	28.34	49	90.34	209	...	...	...	221	11.29
1925	21260	535	25.16	47	87.86	229	...	26	23	226	10.63

Area of District, 9,506 acres. Population, 21,260.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER DISTRICTS.
(included at request of the Council)

	Aber- carn 1924	Aber- carn 1925	County 1925	England and Wales 1925	Risca 1925	Aber- tillery 1925	Mynydd- islwyn 1925	Tre- degar 1925	Ebbw Vale 1925
1 Population	21,140	21,200	358,436	.....	17,760	39,260	16010	26,380	37290
2 Area in Acres	9,506	9,506	345,048	.....	4,195	6,489	5152	.....	6817
3 Inhabited houses	3,780	3,800	.....	.....	3,200	7,000	.....	.....	6540
4 No. of Council houses	258	258	.....	.....	423	131	130	.....	428
5 Birth Rate	25.16	25.16	21.5	18.3	19.3	19.7	24.79	23.6	22.68
6 Death Rate	10.35	10.63	10.6	12.2	9.6	8.6	9.61	11.0	10.48
7 Zymotic Death Rate	0.6	0.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.53
8 Infant Death Rate (per 1000 births)	84.58	87.86	83.18	75	67.0	81.0	111.3	78.4	83.92
9 No. of Infectious diseases notified	218	201	67	203	33	370



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